

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, UN, UNIDO

SUBJECT: UN ADMINISTRARION-COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES:
DECISION ON PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE DEFERRED

1. SUMMARY: COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES JULY 22 DEFERRED UNTIL TUESDAY JULY 26 DECISION AS TO WHETHER TO APPROVE CONVENING OF CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES ON UNIDO CONSTITUTION. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS CRITICIZED THE SECRETARIAT'S FAILURE TO CONSULT WITH COMMITTEE BEFORE INITIATING ARRANGEMENTS. SOVIETS WERE THE MAIN PROPONENT OF DEFERRING CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES UNTIL LATER TIME, INCLUDING AFTER 32ND GA. END SUMMARY.

2. COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES MET JULY 22 TO AGAIN CONSIDER PROPOSED PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE ON UNIDO CONSTITUTION. EARLIER SAME MORNING, SEVERAL DELEGATIONS RECEIVED COPY OF DRAFT AGENDA FOR PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE ALSO CIRCULATED BY SECRETARIAT. MEETING BEGAN WITH LENGTHY JUSTIFICATION OF SECRETARIAT'S ACTION OFFERED BY UN LEGAL DIVISION. THIS WAS MAINLY A REHASH OF PRESENTATION MADE JULY 15, WITH ADDED EMPHASIS ON TIMING DIFFICULTIES.

3. SOVIET REP MADE LENGTHY, PREPARED STATEMENT NOTING THAT
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IT HAD BEEN UNDERSTOOD FOR SOME TIME THAT WORK ON THE TEXT OF THE UNIDO CONSTITUTION WOULD BE COMPLETED BY THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE, IMPLYING THAT NO THOUGHT WAS TO BE GIVEN TO PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE UNTIL THIS HAD BEEN ACHIEVED. HE NOTED THAT MANY PORTIONS OF CONSTITUTION TEXT STILL ARE SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATION AND SAID THAT REGIONAL GROUPS ARE HAVING DIFFICULTIES AGREEING TO A MEETING

ON THE DATES PROPOSED BY THE SECRETARIAT. HE ALSO SAID THAT VARIOUS PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH UNIDO WERE UNDER DISCUSSION AT THE CURRENT ECOSOC MEETING IN GENEVA. SOVIET REP ENDED BY SAYING THAT USS SUPPORTS DRAWING UP NEW UNIDO CONSTITUTION AND WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT, BUT COULD NOT AGREE TO CONVENING CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES ON DATES PROPOSED BY SECRETARIAT.

4. USREP SAID US POSITION REGARDING SEQUENCE OF CONFERENCES ON UNIDO CONSTITUTION HAD BEEN STATED PREVIOUS FRIDAY AND WOULD NOT BE REPEATED NOW. INSTEAD WE WISHED TO CONCENTRATE UPON ACTION OF SECRETARIAT IN ARRANGING MEETING AND ISSUING INVITATIONS WITHOUT CONSULTING COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES. USREP SAID SUCH ACTION HAD BEEN ARBITRARY AND WRONG AND REPRESENTED A VIOLATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 3351 (XXIX). MOREOVER, US REP SAID WE WERE GREATLY UPSET TO LEARN THAT IN LIGHT OF ALL THAT HAD TRASNSPIRED JULY 15 SECRETARIAT HAD AGAIN UNILATERALLY GONE AHEAD AND CIRCULATED AGENDA OF PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE. THIS COULD ONLY BE REGARDED AS DIRECT AFFRONT TO DIGNITY OF COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES.

5. SOVIET REP THEN PROPOSED THAT COMMITTEE DEFER CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES UNTIL 61ST ECOSOC AND 32ND UNGA AHD CONSIDERED SCHEDULING OF SUCH A CONFERENCE AND GOVERNMENTS HAD BEEN CONSULTED. NO SUPPORT DEVELOPED FOR THIS
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POSITION IMMEDIATELY, BUT UKREP COUNTER-PROPOSED THAT COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES SIMPLY QTE TAKE NOT UNQTE OF SECRETARIAT ACTION AND LET ANOTHER BODY DECIDE MATTER.

6. ONLY AUSTRIA SHOWED ANY INTEREST IN UK PROPOSAL, STATING GOA IS READY TO ACCEPT INVITATION TO ATTEND CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES. NIGERIA, ROMANIA, AND THE PHILIPPINES ALL FAVORED WITHHOLDING APPROVAL FOR MEETING OR AT LEAST DEFERRING DECISION UNTIL FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITH GOVERNMENTS COULD BE HELD. NEVERTHELESS, SOME LDC'S SEEMED RELUCTANT TO DEFER CONVENING OF PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE UNTIL AFTER UNGA OR UNTIL 1978. AFTER SOME CONSULTATIONS, SOVIET REP AMENDED HIS PROPOSAL AND SUGGESTED COMMITTEE DEFER CONSIDERATION OF TIMING UNTIL ECOSOC HAD ACTED AND CONSULTATIONS WITH GOVERNMENTS HAD TAKEN PLACE.

7. ULTIMATELY CHAIRMAN STATED THAT CONSENSUS OF MEETING WAS THAT SINCE COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE IN POSITION TO APPROVE PROPOSAL FOR PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE, OR INDEED TO TAKE ANY DECISION ON MATTER, COMMITTEE DEFERS TAKING DECISION UNTIL SUBJECT HAD BEEN CONSIDERED BY ECOSOC AND CONSULTATIONS HAVE BEEN HELD WITH CONCERNED GOVERNMENTS.

NOTING THAT SECRETARIAT IS FACED WITH CERTAIN PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS, NIGERIA SUGGESTED THAT COMMITTEE ATTEMPT TO GET SOME SORT OF READING OVER WEEKEND AND ACT ON TUESDAY. THIS ALSO ACCEPTED.

8. BEFORE CLOSING MEETING, CHAIRMAN (COSTA RICA) SAID HE WISHED TO ENDORSE THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS REGARDING SECRETARIAT ACTION ON WHOLE UNIDO IMBROGLIO. HE PARTICULARLY CRITICIZED UNILATERAL ACTION OF SECRETARIAT AND SAID IT HAD EXCEEDED ITS AUTHORITY. HE REQUESTED DIRECTOR OF CONFERENCE SERVICES, RUTLEDGE TO CONVEY FEELING OF COMMITTEE TO SYG. YOUNG

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